GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4177
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
WATER SHORTAGE FOR IRRIGATION
MAHESHWAR SINGH;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of water for irrigation in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether conservancy work in various ponds, canals and rivers in the country has not been undertaken for the last many years;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any time bound action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir. The storages in 70 important reservoirs being monitored by Central Water Commission comprise 74% of total storages of the country. As on 2nd August 2002, the storage in these reservoirs is 23.37 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which is18% of the total designed live storage capacity of these reservoirs and only 40% of the average storage in these reservoirs in last 10 years. The State Governments have been advised to take appropriate measures for efficient and economic use of water particularlyfor irrigation projects.

Water being a state subject, all water conservation works are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments from their own resources. The rainwater harvesting technology through percolation tanks check dams, gabion structures, dug well recharge structure, recharge shafts, roof top rainwater collection are some of the means of rainwater conservation. Improving the efficiency of irrigation water use which is the largest consumer of water through modernization and renovation of the existing canals, dams, better water management practices etc. is being practiced through Extension, Renovation and Modernisation scheme, which are also being funded under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

Besides, water saving methods like sprinkler and drip are effective in achieving higher irrigation efficiencies which are being promoted under Command Area Development Programme of Ministry of Water Resources.